

The W4YA petition is clearly the best of the current bunch, but it misses on two logical points. First, there is a clear division between the level of technical material required on the current Technician and General tests (practical) and the Extra test (theoretical). There is little a beginner (dare I say "amateur"?) would apply around the station directly out the Amateur Extra class license manual, unless one desired to start out with a 4 square vertical array for low band contesting (or DX-peditioning) with perhaps a homebrew VFO. So, there would need to remain at least two different written tests in any viable long-term licensing system. Also, one need hardly fear that the slow-code operators will attempt to operate in the Extra class CW subbands. Fast code, like any mode, requires two way participation. In fact, I find it hard to believe that one would ever find a fellow operator willing to operate at 15 wpm in the Extra subbands. My experience has shown me that one finds relatively few operators (THE TRUE ELMERS) willing to chew the rag at 5wpm to help the beginner to get on their feet.